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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of
KAZUO KISHINO, ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/473,415
Confirmation No.: 9957

Filed: December 29, 1999

For: ACRYLONITRILE SOLUTIONS OF
MALEIMIDES, etc.

Group Art Unit: 1714

Examiner: Thexton, M.

I hereby certify that this correspondence and/or fee is being
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Honorable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, applicants and their attorney respectfully request that Japanese Patent Publication No. JP-A-08-92208, a copy of which is enclosed herewith, be made of record in the official United States Patent and Trademark Office file relating to the above-identified U.S. patent application. The citation of the foregoing reference should not be construed as an admission that it constitutes statutory prior art with respect to the present invention.

Applicants enclose herewith a copy of a full English language translation of JP-A-08-92208. Applicants note that JP-A-08-92208 was invented by two of the inventors in the present application and relates only to a method for storage of acrylonitrile solution of maleimide in the presence of a molecular oxygen under prevention of coloration and turbidity of the solution and generation of polymer product. However, it is clear from the specification of JP-A-08-92208, that the degree of change of color (that is, changes of

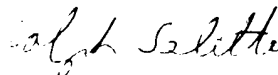
color of acrylonitrile solution of maleimide before and after forced coloration test) as shown by color differences (ΔL , Δa and Δb) set forth as numerical values and used as a term for the expected storage life, had not yet been realized. In short, the specification of JP-A-08-92208 does not suggest or describe the degree of the change of color differences and also the specification of JP-A-08-92208 does not suggest or describe the use of the primary antioxidant and the second antioxidant which are permitted to coexist.

In order to facilitate the Examiner's citation of JP-A-08-92208, applicants' attorney has completed United States Patent and Trademark Office Form PTO-1449. The completed Form is attached hereto for the Examiner's convenience.

No fees are believed to be required in connection with the submittal of this Information Disclosure Statement. However, if any such fees are required, including extension fees, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No.19-1218.

Respectfully submitted,

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